Open Government Partnership (OGP) – Civil Society Member

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Motivation for joining

I appreciate the opportunity to nominate for the second Open Government Forum (OGF), building on the work of the first forum in the implementation of the second OGP National Action Plan. Most of my professional career has focused on public sector governance, with a current focus on using open data to help public sector agencies create maximum public value and deliver better community outcomes.

1. **Demonstrated support of OGP's Mission and Strategy and the Open Government Declaration**

I have been studying aspects of participatory democracy and its underpinning mechanisms since studying public sector governance at university more than twenty years ago. I believe that empowered citizens are central to the continued good governance of our democratic institutions. This empowerment can be achieved through increased transparency in how decisions are made, the information relied on to make those decisions and the publication of that information in an easily digestible and understandable format. These precepts align squarely with the OGP's Mission and the Declaration.

2. **Expertise relevant to the Open Government Partnership, including existing or probable future Australian Open Government commitments**

The increasing availability of open source data enriches the value of public sector proprietary data which, when combined, can translate into better policy development and program delivery. My professional career in Australia has focused on intelligence-led, evidence-driven decision making. My current focus is on assisting public sector agencies in various Australian jurisdictions better use their data to drive performance improvements. My previous public sector roles have been with public sector integrity agencies where the focus was on providing assurance to the parliament and to members of the public that public sector agencies were delivering their functions efficiently, effectively & economically and with due regard to the public interest. This work involved building the capacity of government agencies to understand the value of their data and information and make it available for public consumption to evidence decision-making. This work often involved engagement across the political and public service spectrum.

3. **Demonstrated ability to engage broad and diverse community networks**

My broad experience in public sector governance includes engagement with diverse stakeholder across a number of major projects, including: community peak bodies and legal providers; employment groups, peak bodies and unions; academia; private sector employers; government agencies and parliamentarians. In a previous public sector role, I was responsible for strategic planning which involved diverse consultation with a large variety of community groups as part of the decision-making process (e.g. peak associations, citizens groups and community forums). I have presented on numerous public sector accountability and transparency issues, ranging in size from small public information sessions to large national conferences.

4. **Previous experience working with and influencing government**

I have more than 10 years' experience working in state-based integrity agencies and several Commissions of Inquiry into public interest matters, so have a sound understanding of government machinations. I have also assisted parliamentary committees in their inquiries and put matters in person to Ministers and public sector chief executives throughout my career. Several years ago, I led the development of the Queensland submission to a previous Australian Government's consideration of a federal anti-corruption commission.

5. **The desirability of maintaining some continuity between successive Forums, balanced with the desirability of reaching new communities and reflecting emerging open government priorities.**

I have not been directly involved in any previous Forums, although have been a keen observer of progress in Australia, and further afield. I consider that I can provide some new insights and practical professional experiences of the delivery of open government reforms. I have international contacts (e.g. UK & USA) and insights in the domain of open government data and how it can be harnessed to deliver better community outcomes. I can leverage these contacts and bring new insights to help deliver the OGP Mission.